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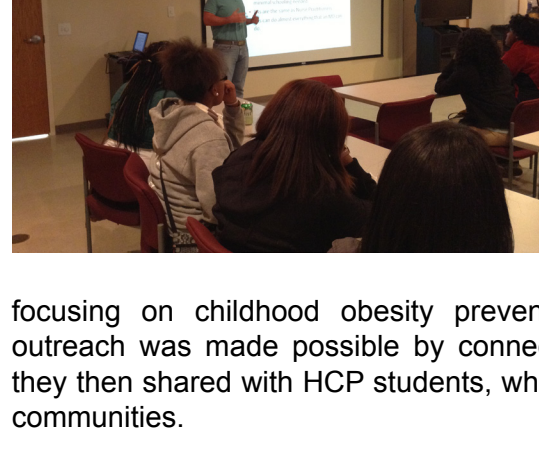
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The AHEC Pipeline Connects

Natasha Chatman, MEd, Kim Stephens, MSED and Emily Warren, LMSW, Lowcountry AHEC



Lowcountry AHEC's Health Careers Program (HCP) and Health Profession Student (HPS) Program collaborated on a modified version of the Medical University of South Carolina's (MUSC) Interprofessional Service Learning Project. The Interprofessional Service Learning Project provides health professions students with interprofessional experiences that promote community outreach by

focusing on childhood obesity prevention in underserved communities. This outreach was made possible by connecting HPS students to knowledge, which they then shared with HCP students, who disseminated the knowledge within their communities.

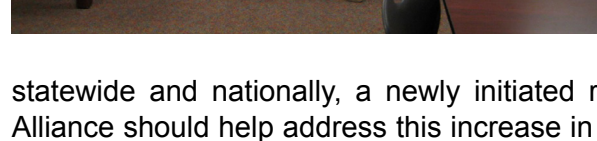
On November 13, Elizabeth DeMeo, a Health Promotion student from Charleston Southern University, and David Astaphan, a Physician Assistant student from MUSC, led in a two-hour didactic session with health professions students. The session reviewed topics including the consequences of obesity, environmental factors, food marketing, and solutions. After discussion on these issues, the health professions students reviewed the Junior Doctors of Health® (JDOH) curriculum to prepare for their meeting with the HCP students.

During this visit, the two health professions students talked about their health career and shared information with the 24 HCP students in attendance about healthy behaviors using the JDOH curriculum from MUSC. Specifically, the students discussed tips on healthy eating at restaurants and the importance of physical activity. The goals of this interaction were to provide career exploration, initiate mentor-mentee relationships, promote community outreach, and encourage healthy behaviors.

The HCP students, with guidance from the AHEC HPS and HCP coordinators, then shared the knowledge gained from the JDOH curriculum with 33 students at Colleton County Middle School on Thursday, November 14. The goals of this interaction were to encourage healthy behaviors and recruit students for the Health Careers Program. The immediate outcome was promising: seven of the middle school students expressed interest in joining the HCP program when they enter high school.

The evaluation data is currently being analyzed on this project. To learn more about Lowcountry AHEC, go to www.lcahec.com.

Mid-Carolina AHEC Helps Meet Health Professions Students' Needs



The halfway point of the 2013-2014 clinical year is approaching for physician assistant and third-year medical students placed by Mid-Carolina AHEC Health Professions Student (HPS) coordinators, Julie Ghent and Jeff Cauthen. Continued and new partnerships with community preceptors are increasingly important for students completing their training. Because of the growing demand for clinical placements from students from

statewide and nationally, a newly initiated relationship with the Palmetto Health Alliance should help address this increase in demand, as well as meet the existing need for placements of physician assistant students.

Another HPS program initiative, the *Junior Doctors of Health*® (JDOH) curriculum, was conducted in two Columbia area middle schools this fall. The JDOH curriculum educates children on the benefits of a healthy diet and exercise and operates under the *Interprofessional Service Learning Project* (ISLP) guidelines. ISLP is intended to provide health professions students with cross-program interaction through conducting the JDOH sessions.

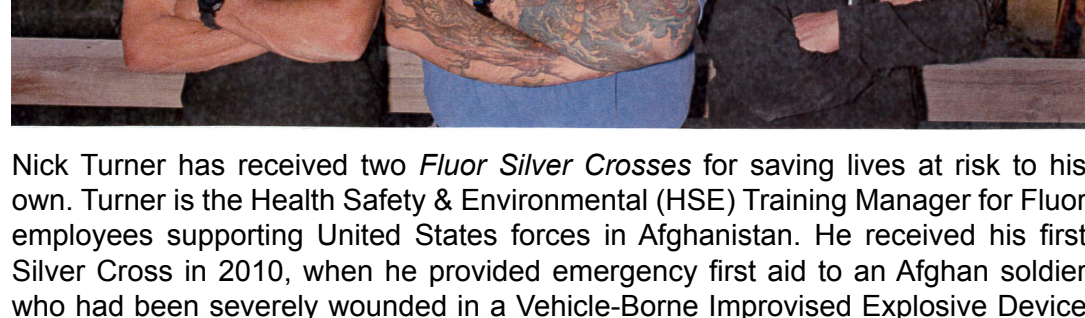
Kade Coggins, Career Specialist at Pine Ridge Middle School, was pleased with the outcome of the sessions, "Today went well... Thanks again for allowing Pine Ridge to be a part of this program!"

Mid-Carolina AHEC continues to create new student experiences that will generate positive outcomes in the future!

For more information, please contact Jeff Cauthen, at jcauthen@comporium.net.

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Serving Those Who Serve Our Country



Nick Turner has received two *Fluor Silver Crosses* for saving lives at risk to his own. Turner is the Health Safety & Environmental (HSE) Training Manager for Fluor employees supporting United States forces in Afghanistan. He received his first Silver Cross in 2010, when he provided emergency first aid to an Afghan soldier who had been severely wounded in a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) attack. In 2011, Turner provided CPR and other emergency aid to a fellow traveler with life-threatening cardiac problems during a commercial flight from Dubai.

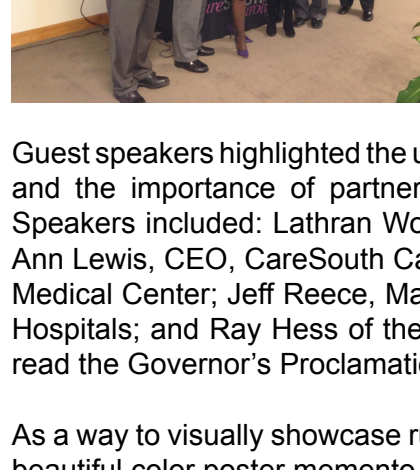
Mr. Turner is an exceptional patriot, leader, colleague, HSE Training Manager and CPR instructor who works with Mid-Carolina AHEC, Inc. as his designated American Heart Association Community Training Center. Mid-Carolina AHEC, Inc. congratulates him on this most recent accomplishment with Fluor! Regardless of where he is working, Turner is one of those gifted individuals who strives to make a difference in all aspects of his life. We are proud of Nick and salute his belief that "when we believe our behavior makes a difference, we excel." Thank you for your service to our country!

For more information, please contact Jeff Cauthen, at jcauthen@comporium.net.

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South Carolina Office of Rural Health Celebrates National Rural Health Day

Gail Weaver, MA, Center Director, Pee Dee AHEC



On November 21, staff from Pee Dee AHEC attended the South Carolina Office of Rural Health Celebration for National Rural Health Day. The third annual celebration was held at CareSouth Carolina in Hartsville, SC. Dr. Graham Adams, CEO of the South Carolina Office of Rural Health, shared the purpose of recognizing National Rural Health Day in South Carolina as an opportunity to "Celebrate the Power of Rural" and to increase the awareness of rural health-related issues.

Guest speakers highlighted the unique healthcare issues being faced by rural citizens and the importance of partnerships necessary to address those critical issues. Speakers included: Lathran Woodard, CEO, SC Primary Health Care Association; Ann Lewis, CEO, CareSouth Carolina; Tim Browne, CEO, Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center; Jeff Reece, Market CEO, Chesterfield General and Marlboro Park Hospitals; and Ray Hess of the SC Department of Health & Human Services who read the Governor's Proclamation.

As a way to visually showcase rural South Carolina, each guest was provided with a beautiful color poster memento entitled "The Blue Barn" drawn by Ashley Galloway of Greenville, SC. If you would like additional information or support, the South Carolina Office of Rural Health welcomes your call at 803-454-3850.

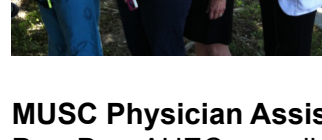
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Pee Dee AHEC Health Professions Student Program 2013 Highlights

Pee Dee AHEC Health Professions Student (HPS) program coordinators participated in multiple student and community projects this year. With each event, health professions students promoted health education and experienced working interprofessionally. The events included:

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk

HPS students participated in the Pee Dee Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk that was held at West Florence High School's athletic track on April 20. The students represented Pee Dee AHEC by presenting health information, games and activities to the youth participants at the walk. The topics focused on nutrition and physical activity.



The Mental Health Awareness Walk

On May 15, Pee Dee AHEC HPS coordinators and students completed the Pee Dee Mental Health Center's Annual Mental Health Awareness Walk (see picture to left). The medical and physician assistant students, AHEC coordinators, the Pee Dee Mental Health Center staff and clients attended The Proclamation Reading for Mental Health Awareness Day to educate the community about mental health.

MUSC Physician Assistant RISE Program

Pee Dee AHEC coordinated the Medical University of South Carolina Physician Assistant (PA) *Rural Interprofessional Student Experience* at seven hospitals within the Pee Dee region. Eighteen PA students had the opportunity to learn about a rural hospital infrastructure for two weeks in late August, during which they lived and worked in the community. This was in preparation for their clinical year of experiential rotations.

Community Health Worker Initiative

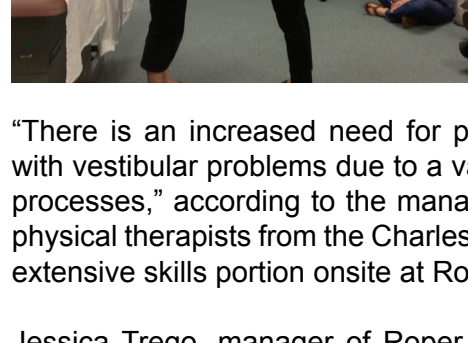
Serving as liaison, Pee Dee AHEC HPS coordinators partnered with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) Community Health Worker Initiative. Services include providing program support and oversight to five primary care clinical practice sites. The program goals address the patient and physician/medical home partnership, decreasing emergency room visits and hospitalizations, improving chronic disease management skills, reducing costs, and improving health outcomes. Each site has a community health worker who was certified through a SCDHHS curriculum.

For more information, please contact Kam Richardson, HPS Coordinator, at krichard@mcloedhealth.org or Traci Coward, HPS Coordinator, at tcoward@mcloedhealth.org.

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Physical Therapy Management of Vestibular Dysfunction in Neurological and Vestibular Populations

Diana Caron, RN, BHS, MEd, Lowcountry AHEC



Caryn Ferrigno, PT DPT, a vestibular physical therapist from St. Francis Hospital, presented "Physical Therapy Management of Vestibular Dysfunction in Neurological and Vestibular Populations" on Saturday, November 2, at the Dixon Auditorium at Roper Hospital. Lowcountry AHEC conducted this continuing education program in response to a Roper Rehabilitation Hospital needs assessment.

"There is an increased need for a variety of therapists to assess and treat patients with vestibular problems due to a plethora of reasons, ranging from injury to disease processes," according to the manager of Roper Rehabilitation Hospital. Forty-four physical therapists from the Charleston area attended the course, which included an extensive skills portion onsite at Roper Rehabilitation Hospital.

Jessica Trego, manager of Roper Rehabilitation Hospital, expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of the program, "The speaker did an excellent job of helping us understand the very complex neuroanatomy of the vestibular system. Her explanations of different vestibular pathology and subsequent clinical presentations were very useful. I thoroughly enjoyed the lab portion of the course in which participants were able to practice hands-on skills with some complex maneuvers. She was an excellent presenter, very knowledgeable and I would definitely recommend this course to anyone who works with the neurologic population."

For more information, please contact Diana Caron at carond@lcahec.com.

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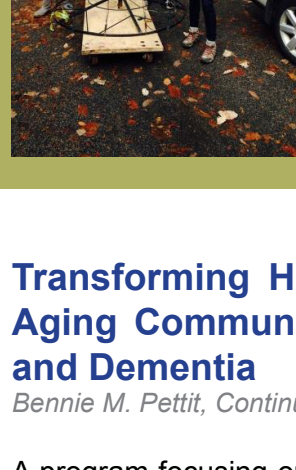
Eleventh Annual Research Symposium: The Nursing Link to Interprofessional Collaboration in Healthcare Research

Bennie M. Pettit, Continuing Education Consultant, Upstate AHEC

"The Nursing Link to Interprofessional Collaboration in Healthcare Research" was held September 27 at Greenville Technical College. The purpose of the symposium was to provide participants with ways to integrate interprofessional collaboration in healthcare research into curriculum and practice, network with colleagues, and engage in interprofessional dialogue around basic, clinical, educational and translational research studies and findings. Fifty-eight healthcare professionals and educators attended the program, which included 12 speakers and 14 poster presentations. This symposium was sponsored by Upstate AHEC in collaboration with The Nursing Research Council of the Greenville Health System, the Nursing Research Council of AnMed Health, Nursing Division of Greenville Technical College, Gamma Mu Chapter and Mu Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

For more information, please contact Bennie Pettit at bpettit@upstateahec.org.

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Students from the Health Careers Program of Upstate AHEC provided a day of volunteer service in November to help prepare for Roper Mountain Holiday Lights. Students helped string colored lights on Christmas displays in preparation for Greenville's premier holiday event. Roper Mountain Holiday Lights, which begins annually on Thanksgiving Day and runs through December 31st, is a community fundraiser sponsored by the Greenville Rotary Club. Almost \$2 million has been donated to multiple charities in Greenville County since the event began in 1990. Upstate AHEC's HCP students have helped decorate the mountain for two years with plans to continue assisting annually.

Transforming Healthcare with Compassionate Care of Our Aging Community: A Focus on the Care of Aging Patients and Dementia

Bennie M. Pettit, Continuing Education Consultant, Upstate AHEC

A program focusing on the care of aging patients and dementia was held October 25 in the Robert E. Coleman Medical Staff Auditorium at Greenville Memorial Hospital. Addressing to Clemson public health sciences professor Dr. Cheryl Dye, "Compassionate health care is not just the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do." The event featured experts from across the nation and focused on the compassionate care of aging patients and those with dementia. Collaborators included the Greenville Health System, the Center for Success in Aging, Clemson University, Furman University, and Upstate AHEC. An educational grant from the Clemson University College of Health, Education and Human Development and a generous philanthropic donation from Stewarts of America, Inc. supported this educational activity.

Susan Bauer-Wu, who holds the Tussi and John Kluge Professorship in Contemplative End-of-Life Care at the University of Virginia School of Nursing, was one of the speakers. She is author of the 2011 book *Leaves Falling Gently: Living Fully With Serious & Life-Limiting Illness Through Mindfulness, Compassion & Connectedness*. During the day-long conference physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, chaplains and other healthcare providers joined together to learn about the art and science of compassionate care, as well as models of practice and why it matters to clinicians, hospitals and the community.

Among the goals of the conference were to discuss the national initiative to create healthcare systems that are more compassionate, share evidence-based research showing compassionate care as necessary and cost-effective, and identify opportunities for collaboration on compassionate care practices. The event also included a Virtual Dementia Tour, an internationally known immersion simulation of dementia that demonstrates the physical and mental challenges facing those with dementia. This scientifically proven method of building a greater understanding of dementia through patented sensory tools and instruction was offered by GHS' Center for Success in Aging's Memory Health Program.

For more information, please contact Bennie Pettit at bpettit@upstateahec.org.


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SAVE THE DATE

MUSC College of Health Professions
Alumni and Faculty
Cocktail Reception

Thursday, January 23, 2014
5:00pm-7:00pm

Colleton Museum & Farmers Market
Walterboro, SC



South Carolina AHEC
2013 Annual Report

Available online at
scahec.net/news.html